Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 12 with the following:

Another factor that introduces seek time variation is settling performance, which in turn can be influenced by mechanical resonance characteristics of the actuator assembly 110, as well as the various electrical parameter values (gain, etc.) selected for ~~used~~ use during the seek (that is, how well the drive is "tuned" for the particular seek length). As discussed above, a seek is not completed until the head 118 is sufficiently on-track for a sufficient period of time to ensure that the access operation can be carried out successfully. This is sometimes referred to as "on-track qualification."

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 17 with the following:

To compensate for head offset when estimating seek times, presently preferred embodiments of the present invention employ a head offset table. The elements of this table are a representation of the offset, in tracks, from one head to another. Preferably, the table is updated every time the servo control circuit 138 is commanded to perform a seek which results in a sequential head switch (a head switch from a head to either of its adjacent heads). The head offset table is preferably stored within the processor memory 144. However, it will be understood that the head offset table may be stored in alternative locations, such as, for example, in memory within the servo control circuit 138. The logical form of the head offset table with typical values of offsets is presented below in TABLE 1.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 15 with the following:

The initial offset values for the head offset table are preferably determined during operation. The head offset values may be calculated during idle time, after ~~an~~ a predetermined elapsed period of time or after a measured operational event, such as, for example, at such time as the disc drive reaches a steady-state operational temperature.